

BENT RIM BUGLE



The official newsletter of the MMBA - Issue #67 - Spring 04

Update: DNR Parks New Trail Moratorium

The Trail Ahead pg.2

CPS race schedule! pg.11

Chapter Chatter pg. 16



First Race, Yankee Springs TT April 18th!

News from the Executive Director – Todd Scott

Updates from the MMBA Office

"We use the MMBA all the time as an example of what can be accomplished. Thanks for leading the way." Mike Hufhand, President of the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association

Annual Expo

First, thanks to all the volunteers who helped make it so successful. It was great seeing so many familiar faces with so much passion for cycling. Some special thanks go to: **Marla Streb** of Team Lunachix who was simply an awesome and very inspiring speaker. **Dennis Murphy** for arranging to have Marla Streb come to Michigan. **Shari Scurr** for bringing the cool MMBA merchandise (as well as coffee, snacks, and her hard-working parents). **Oakland County Parks** for letting us use the Springfield Oaks facilities. **Robert Hurley** for his leadership with the First Across the Finish Lines awards. **Tailwind** for their help with the awards, equipment and much more. **Robin Scurr** for handling all the membership duties. **Emil Sims** for his efforts in the board member elections. **Rick Jerrell** for working the swap tables. **John Burt** for his voice and fine choice of tunes. **All the volunteers** who helped set things up and break things down. **Jerry Serra** for returning Marla to Metro Airport. Thanks to **Bryan Mitchell** for running our first ever photo contest and to **Kona Bicycles** for providing the winning schwag. Thanks to **Nate, Cory**, and **ride-life.com** for the exciting Film Fest. Thanks to **Paints Creek Bicycle** in Lake Orion and **Patagonia** who teamed up to help provide awards to the MMBA Statewide Volunteers of the Year. I'm sure I'm missing some folks, so I apologize.

Parks Perks Pass

Anyone can now buy a motor vehicle pass for \$43 that gets you into all the Metroparks and Oakland County Parks. Non-Oakland County residents used to pay \$46 just for an Oakland County parks pass so this is a much better deal. Also, these groups are talking with the DNR about expanding the program.

Travel Michigan

The MMBA, Rails-to-Trails, and League of Michigan Bicyclists met with the director of Marketing for Travel Michigan and discussed ways of promoting cycling and tourism within the State. The results area:

MMBA CPS races will be on their web site calendar and in their email newsletter. The Travel Michigan web site will soon include major mountain bike trails with a brief description with links to the MMBA web site for more details. This spring they'll produce an email cycling newsletter for the nearly 20,000 email subscribers who've expressed interest in biking and hiking. We're providing the content, which will be an introduction to our race series and a spotlight on Fort Custer. (Chicago is their biggest target market.)

DNR "News"

New Commissioners -- The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) directs the DNR and needless to say they're a powerful group. Governor Granholm just named two replacement NRC commissioners: Mary Brown and Jerry Hall Jr. Ms. Brown is a former state representative and has worked on the Kal-Haven and White Pine Trails. She is also a board member of the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC), of which the MMBA is an active member. Less is known of Jerry Hall except he's the Lt. Governor's hunting partner and a retired business manager for the Michigan Laborers District Council. Leaving the NRC is Paul Eisele who once said mountain bikes shouldn't be on trails.

New Hire -- The MMBA welcomes Dan Lord to the DNR Parks division. Dan joined the DNR in September as a development planner and is becoming very familiar with trails across our state. We've already met a few times, bringing him up to speed on mountain bikes and trails.

New Park Boundaries -- Each DNR Park, recreation area, forest, and wildlife area has an imaginary boundary around the outside. Land within that boundary means the DNR would like to acquire that land in the long run. Currently owned DNR land that falls outside that boundary is considered surplus and will be sold eventually. These boundaries are changing because the land within them is changing primarily due to development. A pristine forest bordering a state recreation area may have been a desirable park addition ten years ago. Today it might be a subdivision and is neither a desirable nor realistic addition. The MMBA has reviewed most of the boundary changes, collected public feedback, met with the DNR, and provided our mostly favorable comments.

New Concessionaire -- Maybury State Park is looking for a sport concession that would include bike and XC ski rentals. Anyone interested in such a proposal should contact Park Manager Sandra Osburn for a bid package. Phone (248) 349-8390, e-mail osburns@michigan.gov

Legislative Update

Some bills are moving through the State House and Senate that affect DNR Forests. How do these bills affect forest recreation? Primarily by enabling forest certification. Such certification says the wood from the DNR forest system was sustainably harvested. It also says the harvesting of the wood did not irreparably harm the forest recreational opportunities. The DNR already does this to a large extent so we don't expect major changes. However, this certification means a third party provides some oversight on these safeguards.

Recent Grants

Thanks to Joe Kucharski and State Farm Insurance (his

employer) for their \$500 grant to the MMBA. State Farm has an employee program that donates money to non-profit organizations such as the MMBA. To trigger the donation, Joe put in the necessary hours working on the trails and submitted an application.

The MMBA received a scholarship from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to attend the Michigan Transportation Summit last December. We represented non-motorized interests as well as voiced our concerns on land use. Thanks, MDOT.

Other Updates

The MMBA was selected to the Michigan Environmental Council's Policy and Strategy Committee, joining other groups such as PIRGIM and the Sierra Club.

Unfortunately Oakland County Parks did not receive the anticipated grant to purchase significant acreage at Addison Oaks. However they may resubmit their grant application as well as look at alternative funding sources.

Didn't get an MMBA Happy Holidays card? Don't worry few did. Those few were the U.S. Senators and Congressmen who voted in favor of transportation enhancements.

The MMBA was selected as REI's Michigan Non-Profit of the Month. Hopefully that will improve our odds receiving REI grants this year.

Dr. Davis Brockenshire is the new Pontiac Lake Chapter president and his email is pontiaclake@mmba.org. Thanks to Jody Delavern, our outgoing president, for all her volunteering and efforts!

DNR Funding: A Crisis on the Horizon

When I worked for a major automotive manufacturer during tough economic times the joke was what's the difference between this company and the Titanic. Answer: the Titanic had a band. While the entire DNR won't sink, parts of the DNR are definitely sinking.

Dedicated Funding

Most DNR funding comes from dedicated sources, e.g. motor vehicle passes, licensing, campgrounds, forestry, etc. This money is kept in separate "funds" that are dedicated to specific activities. Why the quotes around "funds?" Because the money goes to the state treasury and it's up to the Michigan legislature to appropriate the money back to the DNR. It's like a child getting money, giving it to their parent, and the parent paying the child an allowance.

Here's one example. Whenever you buy a vehicle pass or pay a campground fee, the DNR puts the money into a State Parks Improvement Fund, which is dedicated by law to the DNR Parks division. In 2003, that fund brought in \$31.4 million dollars. In return, the Legislature was slightly

generous and appropriated \$32.8 million for the fund. (The other fund relevant to non-motorized trails is the Forest Recreation Fund. It took in \$1.1 million last year from campground fees.)

DNR Parks

As we see in the previous example, DNR Parks got a bit more money from the legislature than they took in. The problem is DNR Parks has never brought in enough revenue to cover all its costs. Our parks aren't moneymakers.

In the past, the Legislature recognized the value these parks provided and allocated additional general funds to keep the DNR Parks budget in the black. Given the current state budget crunch, that's no longer done. DNR Parks is spending more than what the State Parks Improvement Fund brings in. The Fund did have a balance of \$4 million, but that's getting drawn down. According to DNR Director K.L. Cool, the lack of funding for DNR Parks is a huge issue. He predicts there will be "real problems in maintaining and improving parks in 2005."

Solutions

DNR Parks Director Lowen Schuett has been dealing with the problem by staffing reductions and using those savings to cover operations cost, but this is clearly a very short-term solution. The motor vehicle fees were recently raised and the camping fees may be next.

I spoke with Director Kool about this budget problem. He said all states have the same issue – state parks don't bring in enough revenue to be self-supporting. And while some groups grumble about non-motorized users not paying "their fair share" (e.g. walking or riding into a park), there's simply no effective means for collecting those funds without more staffing and more costs.

The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) directs the DNR and one of their goals for 2004 is to resolve this funding problem. The MMBA is committed to working with the NRC along with the DNR, Michigan Horse Council and others to get DNR Parks back in the black. At the same time, we want to generate additional revenue for the Forest Recreation Fund to cover the cost of existing and new State Forest Pathways. Stay tuned!

Update: Don't Mess with Pontiac Lake

In the last Bent Rim Bugle we discussed how proposed plan to lease Pontiac Lake State Recreation Area (PLRA) to Oakland County Parks (OCP).

Jody Delavern and I met with Ralph Richard, the Executive Officer for Oakland County Parks (OCP). We wanted to know why OCP wanted to lease the park and what they hoped to accomplish. Ralph wanted to know what the objections were from all the current park user groups and how they could be addressed.

OCP Motivations

First, their motivation is not the Quake on the Lake, an airport expansion, or a future Williams Lake Road northward extension. There are economic tax savings driving this. As you may know, the DNR pays local and school taxes on its parkland, whereas the county does not. A lease arrangement would save over \$200K annually. OCP also wants to expand the types of recreational facilities they provide the county. They also want to make sure PLRA land is not sold by the DNR.

MMBA Concerns

First, we don't want the park to change its uses and rustic appeal. Ralph assured us it won't. The possible changes they see are moving the entrance to Williams Lake Road once it's realigned and possibly moving the shooting range away from private property. There will not be a golf course.

Second, we don't want to see any land or trails lost. In 19 years, OCP has only sold land once. It was 10 acres at a golf course and they'd planned to sell it when the property was purchased. And actually they've been very active (more so than the DNR) in acquiring and preserving green space. A developer offered them \$20 million for Lyon Oaks recently and they firmly declined.

Third, we didn't want the park managed by the political whims of the County Commissioners. Ralph explained that the Parks Commission is actually a separate entity under Act 261, though there are Commissioners serving in both posts.

Fourth, we don't want fencing around the park. Ralph doesn't either. He said they might only consider it in limited areas where unauthorized motorized use is occurring.

Fifth, we wanted to see a complete master plan developed for the park guided by the stakeholders. Ralph agreed adding that there really hadn't been much done in that area since 1978.

Sixth, we're concerned about the motor vehicle passes (MVP). DNR MVPs would no longer be valid and I know many folks don't want to purchase a new sticker. That's

especially true for out-of-county folks since the cost is higher. Ralph acknowledged this as a big sticking point. It's less costly for folks (especially those out-of-county) to buy the combo Metro Parks/County sticker.

Also, they're meeting with the DNR in January to discuss a combo Metro Parks/County/DNR sticker. We encouraged that option.

North Country Trail Update

David "trailbos" Bos, a National Park Service Trail Leader in Pictured Rocks passed away on February 15th. He was quite knowledgeable in trail issues and a very reasonable voice. His posts on the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) bulletin board were always intelligent, thorough, and will be greatly missed. And even though Dave enjoyed biking (from singletrack to riding across America), he wasn't a proponent of biking on the NCT. However, "we should promote all trail recreation, as trail use is simply good for the soul, whether you get there by bike or hiking boot." He asked that memorials be directed to the American Hiking Society – David Bos Volunteer Vacations Fund – 1422 Fenwick Lane, Silver Spring, MD, 20910.

As mentioned in earlier Bugle editions, some bike-legal sections of the NCT have signs indicating the trail is hiking-only and the NCTA has agreed to help fix those. We've also received a letter from the Huron-Manistee National Forest (HMNF) explaining the problem. The NCTA volunteers were working to put trail signs at every road crossing. They used the only sign stickers they had, which happened to be hiking-only. New stickers are being developed that will say hiking and biking. The sign corrections should be completed sometime this summer.

Also, the connector trail to Bear Track Campground is not closed to bikes. The National Forest will work with the NCTA to edit the map at the Freesoil Trailhead. The rule of thumb: NCT connectors share the same opened/closed status as the NCT sections they connect to.

And finally, HMNF Supervisor James Schuler is retiring this spring. The MMBA wishes Jim a great retirement. We can't offer enough thanks for all the help throughout the years.

This summer, we will be spending not one, but two weekends with the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew. Between August 4th and 15th, the roving pair will visit the High Country Pathway, the state capital offices of the DNR, tech trail sites at Burchfield and Stony Creek, the Grand Rapids area, and the North Country Trail. We will need MMBA members to act as overnight hosts at their stops. Contact your chapter president if you wish to participate in any way.

The Trail Ahead continued from page 2

While the memory is still fresh, I want to thank everyone who participated in this year's Expo. Congratulations to all the CPS and FAFL winners, and to co-Volunteers of the Year Paul Bailey and Shari Scurr. Special thanks to Marla Streb, the story of how she got to Michigan was a tough act to follow, but the story about accepting her award for the Singlespeed Worlds topped it.

Okay, that's all I've got. Is it spring yet?
Dan Harrison

Where things are now

Since the last Bent Rim Bugle, we met with the Director of DNR Parks as well as Planning. We wanted an answer: when they would lift the new trail moratorium in state parks and recreation areas. We wanted to not only complete a small trail loop at Pontiac Lake but look to expand existing trails in other state parks.

In summary, the DNR is creating management plans for all the parks. When a park's management plan is completed, we'll be able to propose new and expanded trails. Until then, we can propose re-routes of existing trails. The DNR may also make limited exceptions for new trail segments, especially if it involves safety issues. In other words the new trail moratorium will be lifted on a park-by-park basis as opposed to all at once as we originally anticipated.

Park Management Plans

The DNR is developing plans for all their parks that label regions within the park based primarily on their natural resources (e.g. wildlife and wetlands.) Example regions might include primitive (foot-travel only), backcountry (e.g. bike/horse singletrack), semi-developed recreation, and fully developed recreation (e.g. campgrounds.) This system is based on what the National Park Service uses.

The DNR wants to work with the MMBA and other park user groups to develop not only the methodology, but the plans as well. For us, the two specific items they want help with is defining trail densities (i.e. trail length per given area) for each region and defining the "desired" future trail length. (One suggestion was 15 to 20 miles for mountain bike trails. We like that suggestion.)

Also, if our existing trail goes through an environmentally sensitive area, (e.g. wetlands), we will likely have to re-route the trail. We'll work with the DNR on those re-routes.

Of course, these management plans won't get done overnight. Easy parks may take 6 to 9 months, others over a year. Future plans may take less time as the DNR optimizes the process.

Five management plans are underway, including Ionia and Brighton. The DNR wants us to prioritize what park management plans we want completed first. The

Update: DNR Parks New Trail Moratorium

DNR and MMBA have already identified Pontiac Lake as a very high priority.

New Pontiac Lake Loop

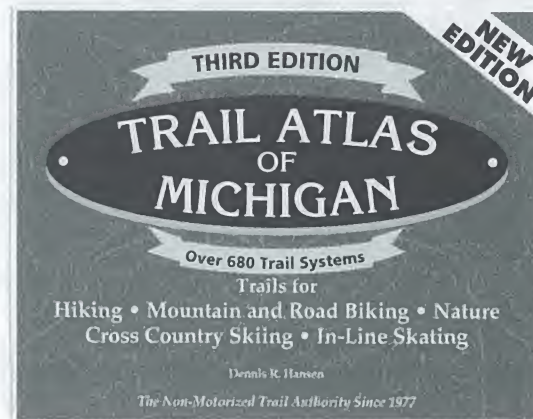
In December we submitted a proposal for a new 1.5-mile trail loop at Pontiac Lake. The DNR response was unanimous. Our proposed Pontiac Lake trail loop is on hold because it represents trail "growth" within a new area. We pushed for an exception on this but the only consolation they gave was making Pontiac Lake next in line for a management plan.

Is this frustrating? Definitely. We've been very patient with the DNR. And while our trail use is growing we haven't been able to grow our trails on state parkland.

Is the DNR doing the right thing? Probably. Park Management plans should have been in place from the start. In the long run they'll give everyone a better idea of where trails can and should go rather than relying on the kindness of the local park manager.

What else can the MMBA do? First, we'll continue pursuing non-DNR land for new trails. We've been more and more successful with that of late. Second, we'll work with the DNR to get the management plans completed as soon as possible.

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Ready to Ride the Poto???

The Members of the Potawatomi Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association would like to invite you to ride "The Poto." The Potawatomi trail at the Pinckney Recreation area has a reputation as one of the longest, most challenging mountain biking trails in the area. With the guidance of our members you can ride the trail at your own pace for a distance that suits your ability level – between 6 and 18 miles. We'll even host a BBQ at the trailhead afterwards to share stories. Membership not required, just a bike, helmet and sense of adventure.

Ladies... You may choose to join one of several women riders who will be on hand to show you around.

When: Saturday April 24 12:00 noon*
Thursday May 13 6:30 PM*

* Biking skills and trail info available 1/2 hour before ride.

Where: Pinckney Rec. Area – Silver Lake Parking Lot
Look for the Yellow and Blue MMBA banner

Contact: davidwelsh3@excite.com / <http://www.mmba.org>

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From The Desk of Ned Overend:

Save money on your long distance phone bills and support MMBA and IMBA

Dear MMBA member and fellow mountain biking enthusiast,

I want to share a great opportunity that will dramatically cut your long-distance phone charges while also raising money for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association and the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

Sign up for Telphonic long distance service, pay a flat rate of five-cents per minute (with no other fees), and Telphonic will donate 5% of your monthly phone bill to the MMBA and an equal percentage to IMBA. **Every call you make will support mountain bike advocacy, nationally and locally, and each call will probably cost a lot less than what you currently pay.** It's a win-win-win situation for you, the MMBA and IMBA.

You can sign up easily over the Internet at www.telphonic.com, and there are no hidden fees, no monthly minimums, no term plans, and no special access numbers. It's just like your current long distance service--only it supports mountain biking and is, most likely, much less expensive. Switching is seamless. **The only thing you'll notice is a cheaper phone bill.**

I helped create this opportunity through a friend of mine, Mark Nichols, an avid cyclist who founded **Telphonic Communications**. Instead of spending lots of money on advertising, Mark's company donates those dollars to non-profit organizations. In addition to providing you with low five-cents a minute rate, Telphonic will donate 10% of your phone bill to the MMBA and IMBA. Every call, every year. You'll save a lot, and Telphonic's donation will help preserve trail access for mountain bikers.

Telphonic's international rates are equally impressive. They're as low as six-cents a minute to the UK and Europe, and five-cents a minute to Canada and other parts of Michigan not covered by your local phone plan.

I believe so strongly that this is a great program that addition to the great rates, **we'll send you some schwag just for signing up.** You'll get:

- *a personally autographed copy of my book, "Mountain Bike like a Champion."
- *an IMBA baseball cap
- *and after you accrue \$250 in Telphonic services you will receive an IMBA "Long Live Long Rides" jersey.

All this, and 10% of your long distance bill goes to support these two great organizations.

I switched to Telphonic about eight months ago and am pleased with the savings and level of service. IMBA is also using Telphonic. This is really a no-brainer. It's probably a lot cheaper for you and it helps make mountain biking better in Michigan and around the country.

Please join me in this worthy effort so we can keep on riding...and saving!

Enrolling is really easy. All you need to do is go to www.Telphonic.com. During the sign-in process, make sure you choose the "**Michigan Mountain Biking Association**" as your "User-Supported Organization."

Feel free to contact Todd Scott at the MMBA (248 288-3753 or execdir@mmba.org) if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

Ned Overend

Telphonic Communications, Bishop Ranch 6, 2440 Camino Ramon, Suite 225, San Ramon, CA 94583
800.717.5802 www.telphonic.com

Ride the Keweenaw on Father's Day Weekend

By Dean Woodbeck

Miles of single track, plenty of elevation changes, cross-country distance races, a technical time trial, youth races and cross-country tours. How many more reasons do you need to join in the Portage Health System Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival?

The event, held on Father's Day weekend each year, will take place June 19-20, 2004, in Hancock and Houghton, on Michigan's scenic Keweenaw Peninsula.

Saturday, June 19, features cross-country races with 16- and 32-mile options on Hancock's challenging Maasto Hiihto/Churning Rapids trail system. The course includes miles of single track and plenty of elevation changes. Starting time is 10 a.m., with a roll-out through downtown Houghton and across the Portage Lake Lift Bridge.

Non-racers can ride one of three tours--non-timed guided rides that begin at the race start, behind the racers. The three route options include the 16-mile race course, an eight-mile section of the race course and an eight-mile non-paved rail trail. Tour riders pay the same registration fee as the racers and enjoy the same amenities.

Sunday, June 20, includes a two-mile technical time trial with natural and manmade obstacles, starting at 10 a.m. at the Michigan Tech trails in Houghton. The Junior Chain Drive, for youth age 13 and under, includes a one-mile



Brian Mathewson of Hancock hits the landing on the 'Ode to Brian' showcase stunt during the 2003 Technical Time Trial.



Matthew Koss of Marquette cruises through a section of singletrack during the 2003 Chain Drive.

non-timed race for those ages 7 and under and a three-mile timed race for ages 8-13. There is a \$5 entry fee for the Junior Chain Drive and events begin at 1:30 p.m.

All participants registered by May 31st for Saturday's events, or for both days, will receive a free jersey. If you ride with your dad, you can sign up for the Father's Day Weekend Challenge, with awards in the 16-mile race to the top three father/youth combined times.

The top three finishers in each category will receive prizes, with cash awards to the top five in the 32-mile expert (open) category. Special awards will

go to the top three male/female riders in the Technical Time Trial (Hot Rider jerseys). All participants are eligible for door prizes.

For more information, on-line registration, age categories, starting times and links to lodging information, go to www.chaindrive.org, or call the Keweenaw Convention and Visitors Bureau at 906-337-4579.

The Portage Health System Keweenaw Chain Drive promotes the sport of mountain biking through fun family events and supports trail preservation efforts throughout the Keweenaw Peninsula. The event is organized by the Keweenaw Trekkers and all funds raised by the festival go towards trail improvement, access and acquisition projects in Houghton and Keweenaw counties.

www.chaindrive.org

Photos courtesy Dean Woodbeck



Volunteers, racers honored at the annual meeting!

Along with some fun with Marla!

Paints Creek Bicycle in Lake Orion and **Patagonia** teamed up to help provide awards to the MMBA Statewide Volunteers of the Year.

The 2003 Volunteers of the Year co-award winners:
Shari Scurr and Paul Bailey.

Shari has been a tireless volunteer for many years now starting with leading the Pontiac Lake Chapter and stepping up as director for MMBA merchandise and the Championship Point Series. She made sure the MMBA tent and merchandise (hot coffee, too!) are at all the CPS races and special events.

Paul has been completely dedicated to making the trails at Addison Oaks second-to-none. After putting in hundreds of trail hours, he's not only improved the trail but cemented our working relationship with Oakland County Parks.



State volunteer of the year Shari Scurr



State volunteer of the year Paul Bailey



Kevin Campbell gets Certified!



Above, Marla Streb chatting with MMBA E.D. Todd Scott. Right, Marla address' the faithful.



From the MMBA.org bulletin board:

"I think that had to be one of the best annual meetings I've ever been to ! Thanks to Todd and everyone that helped organize it. There seem to be a standing room only size crowd during the meeting. It was good to see so many vendors set up, also. It was a thrill to meet and talk to Marla and I think she was one of the best speakers we've had, certainly the most entertaining. I couldn't believe her long list of biking related injuries, OUCH ! Keep up the great work everybody !" -Santa Cruz

Photos by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

2004 MMBA Championship Point Series



Kids—Beginner—Sport—Expert—Pro/Elite
Ranking based on your best 8 finishes
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For additional information: www.MMBA.org

Fun Promotions (616) 453-4245 / Oakland County Parks (248) 858-4647 / Tailwind Enterprises (248) 634-6178

1	April 18 th Middleville/Hastings	Yankee Springs Time Trial <i>MMBA / Tailwind Enterprises</i>
2	April 25 th Grand Rapids	Cannonsburg Challenge <i>Fun Promotions</i>
3	May 2 nd Battle Creek	Fort Custer Stampede <i>MMBA / Tailwind Enterprises</i>
4	May 23 rd Addison/Rochester	Addison Oaks Spring Classic <i>Oakland County Parks</i>
5	June 6 th Grayling	Hanson Hills Challenge <i>Fun Promotions</i>
6	June 12 th & 13 th Ludington	Whiskey Creek Stage Race <i>Tailwind Enterprises</i>
7	July 11 th Boyne City	Boyne Challenge <i>Fun Promotions</i>
8	July 18 th Shelby/Rochester	Stony Creek Time Trial <i>Tailwind Enterprises</i>
9	August 1 st Manistee	Big M Ski Area Cross Country <i>Tailwind Enterprises</i>
10	August 22 nd Battle Creek	The Duane Chambers Memorial Time Trial (Fort Custer) <i>Tailwind Enterprises</i>
11	September 12 th Gaylord	Aspen Park Cross Country <i>Tailwind Enterprises</i>
12	September 26 th Grand Rapids	Pando Challenge <i>Fun Promotions</i>
13	October 10 th Boyne City	Boyne Challenge <i>Fun Promotions</i>

Always check with promoter for information, current start times, race applications, pre-register dates and date of events. All dates on public properties are subject to land manager considerations and it is up to the rider to make sure that times and dates are current and correct. You do not have to be an MMBA member to ride in any of the races listed. However an MMBA membership and an annual \$5 tabulated fee are required to be scored in the points series. It is highly recommended that you renew your membership in the MMBA and pay the tabulation fee prior to the first race you want to count in the MMBA/CPS regardless of when your current membership expires.

Inquiries regarding the MMBA Championship Points Series may be directed to:

MMBA CPS Director Shari Scurr - cps@mmba.org

For more info go to: <http://www.mmba.org/racing.htm#cats>

2004 CPS Age Groups

Elite	Expert	Sport	Beginner
Women Men	Women Men 19 – Under Men 20-29 Men 30-39 Men 40 & Over	Women 29 & Under Women 30 & Over Men 14 & Under Men 15-19 Men 20-29 Men 30-34 Men 35-39 Men 40-44 Men 45-49 Men 50 & Over Single Speed Clydesdale Tandem	Women 14 & Under Women 15-29 Women 30 & Over 10 & Under Men 11-14 Men 15-19 Men 20-29 Men 30-34 Men 35-39 Men 40-49 Men 50 & Over Clydesdale

Racing FAQ

Why would I want to race?

Everyone has their own reasons for racing: the speed, camaraderie, competitiveness (with yourself and others), social aspects, spectating, kids races, a point series, pain, challenge, awards, beautiful courses, motivation for training, fitness, etc.

The racing experience will inevitably provide memories of accomplishment, whether you won a race or just suffered harder than you thought you ever could just to see that darned finish line. You'll have stories of good luck, bad weather, and pain. The challenges you'll battle on the race course will certainly put perspective on the lesser challenges of your everyday life.

Invariably, you'll find yourself alongside someone who's the same speed as you. You'll go back and forth during the race, exchanging handshakes or congratulations at the finish.

Which race category should I be in?

The following are the recommendations from the **MMBA Point Series Rules**

Beginner - Racers with little or no experience in mountain bike racing. Most beginner racers will be in this class for their first year.

Sport - Racers with one or more years experience in mountain bike racing, road racers with significant cycling experience, those who have the skills and experience to race as a sport rider.

Expert - Racers with significant race experience and enough fitness to race at a more competitive level than sport.

Elite - The top 5% of all racers compete in this class. Your skill level and fitness should be such that you do not pose a hazard or impediment to other racers in this class.

Also note that the Addison Oaks race offers a first-timers race. This is a short, single lap (about 6 mile) race.

How does the MMBA Championship Point Series work?

The Point Series ranks racers based on their results at Series races. At the end of the year, the top three in each racing category are given awards. To be in the Series, you must be an MMBA member and pay the one-time \$5 Point Series fee. You can read the details on the Series [on-line](#).

What is the difference between time trial and cross-country races?

In a time trial, racers are assigned a starting time. Pre-registered riders are grouped by their race category and start first. Everyone else is started based on the order in which they were registered. Racers are typically started two at a time every 30 seconds. They are usually one-lap races or two lap races. Top racers usually finish is less than an hour. This race format is preferred on courses that don't offer much room for passing. Time trials are a good choice for first-time racers as you are primarily competing against the clock.

In the Cross-country format, racers are started in waves based on their race category (e.g. Sport men 30-34.) Most cross-country races involve multiple laps. The number of laps is based on the race category (e.g. 4 laps for experts, 3 for sport, and 2 for beginner.) To avoid confusion and congestion on the course, the expert/elite, sport, and beginners ordinarily don't race on the course at the same time. At some multiple lap races, the expert/elite class races with the sport class.

Some cross-country races are point-to-point, which means the start and finish lines are far apart. Michigan's **Iceman** race is a good example since it starts in the City of Kalkaska and finishes in Traverse City.

Do I need a racing license?

No you don't with only a few exceptions. Most Michigan races are not sanctioned with NORBA, the national mountain biking governing body. Therefore, no NORBA license is required. For the races that do require licensing, refer to the [NORBA web site](#) for fee and application information.

What are the rules during the race?

Go here: http://www.mmba.org/cps/racing_rules.htm

What should I carry on my bike?

The answer depends on how much risk your willing to take. If your bike works flawlessly, you may only need water and, depending on the race distance, some form of nutrition. However, if you get a flat tire and don't have the tools, your race might be over.

Most racers carry a spare tube and either a pump or CO2 cartridges. You may want to carry tire levers, though in a pinch, you can use a quick-release handle. A multi-purpose tool can be invaluable, especially if it includes a chain tool. Quick tube patch kits are small and may come in handy for dealing with multiple flats.

You don't want to learn how to use your tools on the racecourse. It's a good idea to learn how they work in advance rather than fumble with them during a race.

What kind of support is there on the course?

Depending on the race, there may be water, sports drink, or food offered. If you're relying on that support, make sure you know where it is on the course and what will be offered.

Also, you should be cautious when counting on a sports drink you have not tried before. You do not want an upset stomach to ruin your moment of glory.

When should I arrive at the race site?

That varies depending on whether you want to pre-ride the course, if you're already registered, etc. It's best to err on the early side and not waste energy racing to get to the starting line.

Also note that races early in the season, especially the Yankee Springs Time Trial, are a little more crowded. You'll want to leave extra time for getting in the park and registering.

Should I pre-ride the course?

Yes, but only if it's practical. Pre-riding a course offers numerous advantages, especially if you've never ridden it before. It's always best to know what to expect in advance. You'll want to know the best lines on the loose climbs and in the more technical areas, where the finish line is as well as the good places for passing. The better you know the course, the better you can gauge where you are and how much effort you can expend to get to the finish. Pre-riding also lets you test your equipment, such as your tire selection, tire pressure, and suspension setup.

When should I pre-ride?

Often times you can arrive early and pre-ride the course before your race start, however this may be impractical or not-allowed if others are racing before you. This may also be impractical if the course is very difficult or is a point-to-point race.

Another option is to pre-ride the course before race day. Most of the multi-lap races held on public land are available for pre-riding. Some of the races on private land may be accessible as well. Typically, courses are not marked until one or two days before the race.

MMBA member discount offer at www.trainingbible.com

If you aren't familiar, www.trainingbible.com is a site designed and run by Joe Friel and his associates. Joe is the author of "The Mountain Biker's Training Bible," "The Cyclist's Training Bible," and "The Triathlete's Training Bible."

Just enter "mmba" in lower case when you go to pay. Your payment will be reduced as follows:

1 month = \$19
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Life is for getting off the couch...
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If I fall, crash, bonk or get a flat,
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The effort of life reminds me that I am living.

The rhythmic turning of the cranks...
The whirring of gears...
The spinning of wheels...
The wheel turns round...
The wheel of time...
The wheel of life...
The wheels on my bike.

~ Deborah M. Smith ~

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9 May 1993

MMBA given Community Service Award!



MMBA Tree Farm Trail Coordinator and Novi resident Kevin Campbell, left, with Matt Wiktorowski the City of Novi Parks and Recreation Supervisor.



The Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) Southeast Chapter was recently given a Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA.)

The City of Novi Parks, Recreation, and Forestry (NPRF) nominated the MMBA for developing the 10-mile bike and hike trail network at Lakeshore Park. Working together with the NPRF, MMBA volunteers logged thousands of hours and developed one of the premier mountain biking destinations in Southeast Michigan. As a result, park use has increased ten-fold since 1996.

"This Novi trail is the unsung gem in Southeast Michigan," according to Kevin Campbell, MMBA Trail Coordinator and Novi resident. "We couldn't have developed this without our countless volunteers and continued support from Novi Parks and Recreation."

Nationwide surveys show trails and open-space are two of the most desired community amenities among home buyers. Within Michigan, trails are also scoring highly among participants in the Governor Jennifer Granholm's Cool Cities Initiative.

"It's hard to believe this great trail is located within such a highly-developed area," says Dave Cox, MMBA member. "When I'm out on the trail, it feels like I'm riding in Northern Michigan."

More information on the Novi trail is available on-line at www.mmba.org/novi.



See the new AS-R 575
With 5.75" of Travel



And the new AS-R SL
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pictured



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GARY FISHER

TREK

KLEIN



MOUNTAIN KIDS CORNER

This summer is going to be a busy season for the MMBA Mountain Kids. The program has seen incredible growth in the amount of kids that are serviced by the program and 2004 will be as exciting as ever!

Sarah Manning-Mountain Kids Program Director

I get a lot questions from people asking me, "How do I volunteer for a Mountain Kids Event?" If you're interested in volunteering for one of our events this spring and summer, this is what you need to do.

1. Keep an eye on the MMBA bulletin board or send your e-mail address to mountainkids@mmba.org. Events will be posted on the bulletin board and e-mail updates will also be sent to people that are on the e-mail list.

2. Then show up to the scheduled event. Events usually start at 10:00 a.m., so it's helpful to arrive at around 9:45 or so.

3. Once the kids arrive I talk with them about bike safety, the importance of wearing a helmet and some basic techniques for trail riding.

4. After we've talked for a bit, it's time to get the kids fitted to a helmet and a bike. With helmet fitting, we choose a helmet that doesn't move when the child shakes his/her head. Then we adjust the saddle height, so they have good leg extension, but can also get their feet to the ground pretty easily.

5. Then, the fun begins. We try to make sure a volunteer is paired with one or two children, and then you ride with that child. We also have a ride leader and someone that will sweep behind the group. We usually stop along the way for everyone to catch up, get a few drinks or maybe stop at a bathroom.

6. At the end of the ride, the kids munch on hot dogs and potato chips that I've cooked up while everyone was out on the trails. I usually have food for the volunteers as well, especially if there are two events in one day. This is the time when all of the volunteers get to socialize and chat with each other.

7. Volunteering for mountain kids is a wonderful opportunity to give back to the sport as well as meeting fellow mountain bikers. I hope to see everyone at one of the future events. Keep your eyes on the MMBA bulletin board or send me an e-mail and I will keep you updated on scheduled events.



Photo by Bryan Mitchell (www.mountainbikemichigan.com)

Mountain Kids Director Sarah Manning at the MMBA annual meeting.

Sarah Manning, Mountain Kids Director

Chapter Chatter

Holly/Flint Chapter News

Spring into action! Get your FAFL hours in now, before riding season really kicks into gear! We have lots of interesting projects and trail improvements starting at both Holdridge and Seven Lakes trails in March and April (so we'll need lots of volunteers!)

We now have tentative Seven Lakes trail maintenance dates! Keep an eye on the calendar as these may change: March 20th, April 3rd, April 10th, May 8th, June 5th (National Trails Day), and August 7th.

The Seven Lakes work will begin with installing sign posts and closing social trails to establish the loop. Next, funding permitting will be the "big bridge" and then the smaller bridges and cable ladders. The big bridge and trail ladders will probably be assembled off site, then moved to the trail location and reassembled. So if you're interested in helping, but can't make a scheduled trail day, contact Ron Stack at Cyclefit in Fenton and volunteer to do some pre-trail day woodworking! In the past, the chapter had a pre-trail day for making all the parts for the cable ladders too (like you see on the Lake Loop at Holdridge).

At Holdridge, our first trail date is scheduled for March 27th; this should entail clearing the trails from winter's damage. Bring your chainsaws, loppers, and gloves. You don't need to have a chainsaw to help! Every chainsaw crew needs at least two people. Tony Klein's recent walk of the North loop displayed a lot of brush laying over the trail. It must have been due to the heavy snowfalls. I don't know about you, but I sure hate those thorns on the wild roses! The West loop has a least three trees down over the trail and we really need to keep riders from making "Go-Arounds". Gruber's Grinder is its own animal as usual. We also plan to replace the weathered and damaged trail marking signs on the West and North loops. Other Holdridge trail dates are: April-24th, May-22nd, June-5th (National Trails Day), June-26th, July-24th, August-21st, September-11th.

By the time the BRB is out our first ever Yosemite's base-ment chapter meeting experiment will be past, if you participated, thanks for being there!

Look for the earthworms! Remember that Holdridge trails are just as delicate as the other trails in SE Michigan. I know a lot of people who think that Holdridge stays frozen or thaws first/or is dryer and ready to ride sooner than other trails in the area, but it really is just like the rest of them. I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of you in the coming summer!

Looking for earthworms,
Mary Ann

Mid-State Chapter News

The Mid State chapter elections were held on February 21 in Jackson. 2004 officers are President - Harv Seeley, Vice President - Brian Zakzrewski, Secretary - Luke Pline, Treasurer -Jake Pangle.

The first batch of Mid State T-shirts were available at the meeting and sold very well. We now have them in stock at Eric's Cycle and Velocipede Peddler in the Lansing area as well as Pedal & Tour in Jackson. We wanted to get more shops stocked with shirts but demand was much higher than anticipated and we're already sold out. A new printing should be in by the end of the month and we expect to have shirts in shops throughout the Mid State region.

So far the only organized trail day is either 4/17 or 4/24 at Ella Sharp in Jackson. As usual, trail work will be occurring at Burchfield pretty much every weekend in April, or earlier if the weather allows. Considerable work will be done at Heritage Park in Adrian as well and help is always appreciated there. Work sessions are generally not big, organized events in Mid State; watch our message board for work sessions! Go to the Mid State web page and find the message board link from there.

In 2004 we are looking at two primary new trail projects. One is Crego Park in the city of Lansing, we expect to get about 3 miles of fun XC trail there, and you will be able to get on this trail from the Riverwalk trail just past Potter Park. Should be very cool!

The showcase project is Sauk Valley, between Jackson and Adrian. There is tons of great land there and could easily be a premier trail in the state. We are still working out some liability questions and usage concerns right now, but the landowner wants to hold an XC race there by mid to late summer this year! We'll need a lot of volunteers for this project, and it will be worth it! We'll be posting more information on the Mid State message board and the main MMBA board as well.

We are putting the finishing touches on our MOU with Ingham County Parks and MMBA for the Burchfield Advanced MTB Trail. This document is very comprehensive and we think it will serve as a great model for other MOU documents in the future. We expect to have the MOU signed by late spring. Additionally for Burchfield, during our winter meetings with Ingham County Parks, we believe we have approval for construction of the final section at Burchfield - Bushwood Country Club (think Caddyshack). This is the section that contains the "hidden" double teeter bridge stunt. Zak will be hosting a walkthrough anyway and construction could begin immediately if all goes our way. The original design of Bushwood contained approximately 10 skills stunts and jump section.

Other notes.

We'd like to see a group that is willing to work more consis-

tently at Rose Lake this year, if you have any interest in this, please contact a chapter officer and we'll get the ball rolling with the DNR at Rose Lake.

We're going to be developing a trail plan and proposal for Lincoln Brick Park in Grand Ledge, if you are interested in working on that project, please contact an officer and we'll get you in touch with the right people.

Finally, we are exploring the possibility of creating a 30 minute time slot MTB show for public access broadcast. The concept now is to make a new show every month and try to air it 2-3 times per month, or more. This show will not be Mid State specific, it may not even be Michigan specific - its wide open. We're going to need help! Get on the message board and watch for updates. So get out you video cam and fire up your Mac and get ready to ship us DV clips! - <http://www.downgrade.net/midstate>

Northern Chapter News

Brrrr. It has been a long, cold and hard winter up here in northern Michigan. Below zero temps, wind-chill into the sub-sub zero temps, snow hip deep by January 16 and no end in sight. Puxatawny Pete represented it best when he saw his shadow and dove back down into his hole. We will have six more weeks of winter. The trails may thaw by late April which will only give us four weeks to train for the 24 hours of Boyne. Road riding might be open by mid April, although we were cc skiing until April 15th last year.

Even though the ground is still very much frozen and covered in white stuff, plans are underway for an awesome riding season here in northern Michigan. Check out the Fun Promotions races at Boyne Mountain May 29 & 30 and Hanson Hills in early June. Also the Keweenaw Chain Drive Festival Father's Day weekend as well as The Copper Harbor Fat Tire Festival Labor Day and the grand daddy of all festivals, the **Michigan Bike Festival** in September.

The **Michigan Bike Festival** is well underway and scheduled for **September 10 & 11, 2004** at Hanson Hills in Grayling with a jaunt up to Gaylord for the CPS race on the 12th at Aspen Park. Several notable bands have already been signed on to provide music including the **Jelly Roll Blues Band** that plays all winter at Boyne Mountain in the main lodge. For more information on the festival go to: www.michiganbikefestival.com. By the time this goes to press, we will have online and paper registration already in place. Please plan on attending this really cool inaugural event to promote biking in Michigan!

As most of you know, Hanson Hills Recreation Area in Grayling is also the host facility for our Trail Coordinator advanced training school held May 15 & 16, 2004. All slots have been filled with existing trail coordinators from each chapter. Please don't contact us asking for space. If you have any interest in attending trail coordinator training, contact your chapter presidents.

Something else really exciting on the horizon is for the legendary **High Country Pathway** to be nominated as an **"Epic Event"** by IMBA. This will do a lot to increase awareness throughout the mountain biking world for Michigan being a mountain biking destination state. We plan on having several rides on the HCP this year in preparation for this event tentatively scheduled for 2005 including a one day ride during the summer solstice in Mid June. Watch the calendar for the dates.

One other item: Our annual raffle will once again take place with prizes being awarded at the CPS race at Aspen Park in Gaylord on September 12.

One more thing: Please remember to always pack out what you pack in. Unfortunately we have many snowmobilers who do not do this. Maybe because they are not in tune with how delicate nature really is. So if you see some trash that you didn't bring in, please, if you can, pack it out. Thanks!

Ride On!

Eric Isaacsen, president MMBA northern chapter

Southeast Chapter News

2004 is a shaping up to be another busy year for trail building and maintenance. We are planning some exciting events and activities as well. Including the first ever race at Lakeshore park – AKA Novi Tree Farm (May 8th), Volunteer trail building classes, and possibly some women's mountain biking clinics. If you have questions or would like info on any Southeast trails please e-mail southeast@mmba.org.

We have also updated our chapter webpage (http://pacman.vosn.net/%7Emmba/southeast/se_chapter.htm) to hopefully provide more information to our members and potential members. You'll find a list of positions we need help with, trail workdays, and upcoming events. You will also find a great description of what we do, and what trails we are stewards of. There is much more going on as well including Matt Kowalczyk's Red Run project, working towards re-routes at Island Lake, and surveying the possibility of switching direction at Highland to name a few. And thanks to Kars Nuts and Clif Bar our trail days will be well stocked.

Trail Work:

Maybury:

Dave Poirier (AKA Dogdave) has been working with the DNR to get some badly needed re-routes taken care of. We will also be hosting a SE Chapter volunteer trail building clinic on April 3rd. Covering proper tools usage, tool safety, trail construction techniques and theories. We will be holding two trail building days as well 4/4 and 4/10. For those interested in becoming trail construction crew chiefs you will need to take the class on 4/3 and then return on 4/4 workday for further instruction. There are limited number is spaces for the 4/3 class, so please e-mail southeast@mmba.org to reserve your space (free).

4/3 – Trail building class

4/4 – Trail re-rote construction / Crew Chief training (must take the 4/3 class)

4/10 – Trail re-route construction continued
Lastly we will be submitting proposals to the DNR for more trail construction as the moratorium's become lifted, but this process could take a few years. Watch the MMBA BB for details.

Lakeshore Park (AKA Novi Tree Farm):

Don't miss the first ever MTB TT held at Lake Shore Park on May 8th. The trail is being finished up as Kevin Campbell is working with the city and the local Boy Scouts to get some bridges built and eliminate the remaining two way traffic. Don't miss the April 24th trail day...with group ride afterwards. 9:00am – 1:00Pm with Pizza after. Watch the MMBA BB for details. If you want to get involved please e-mail southeast@mmba.org and check the MMBA Bulletin Board for details. Or contact Kevin Campbell (AKA HID Kevin).

4/24 – Trail day

5/8 – MTB Time Trial (<http://www.tailwind.net>)

Hines Park Project:

Well we are still trying to get final approval from Wayne Co. Right now we are hoping to have this by late April so we can start the construction of what will initially be 1.5 – 2.5 miles of fun single track. For those who are unfamiliar with Hines Park Drive, it follows the Rouge River from Northville to Dearborn. Our project will hopefully open up the possibility of additional small single track sections along the Hines Park pathway. If you want to get involved please e-mail southeast@mmba.org and check the MMBA Bulletin Board for details. Or contact Mike Flack (AKA Sherpaboy)

Stony Creek:

Some people thought FR and XC would never come together...well we are working to achieve a new relationship with our brother cyclists. With the support of Stony Creek Metro Park whom have donated a sizable amount, and dedicated portion of land we will be implementing a skills park. Mike Moss and Rob Elliot have worked on the proposal and been give the green light. We are finalizing drawings and have been out looking at the land for natural feature and potential. The SE Chapter has also formed a FR discussion group to help establish some standards and practices for the future of this style of riding. Stony is a 2 phase project right now including new XC trails and Skills area. The official MMBA proposal is online in the library for review. If you want to get involved please e-mail southeast@mmba.org and check the MMBA Bulletin Board for details. Or contact Mike Moss (AKA Wingzz)

As always if you have any questions or comments please refer to the SE Chapter website (http://pacman.vosn.net/%7Emmba/southeast/se_chapter.htm) or shoot an e-mail to southeast@mmba.org

Mike Flack - SE Chapter President

Southwest Chapter News

I am going out on a limb here, all by myself. I am going to predict the beginning of spring. I predict spring will begin on Saturday March 20th. Mark it on your calendar and see if I am right. While your there mark Sunday April 4 as liberation day. This is when to set your clock ahead and begin riding after work without lights. Flip the page to the month of May and be sure to mark May Second as Fort Custer Stampede. This is the fund raising event that allows the volunteers of the Southwest Chapter to do their wonderful things.

Now its time for my annual spring thaw lecture. I'll be brief. You know you have already heard it from notable scholars like Daryl and Daryl and Uncle Grampa and Billy and the BRB and so on. . . Ride responsibly! Don't leave a mark! I know how much you want boogie on the single track, almost as much as me. Don't you be the one to leave deep ruts in mud. It is up to you to protect our trails.
Mike Needham

Western Chapter News

The Western Chapter will have their first meeting of 2004 on Tuesday March 9th. Issues to be covered will include officer elections, trail maintenance schedules, advocacy issues at various locales within the chapter. Look for more info on the chapter website at www.westernmmba.org

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Registration & Check-In /
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Saturday - Boyne Highlands
Registration / Ride to Mackinac /
Lunch at Legs / Ferry Crossing to
Mackinac Island /
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Sunday - Mackinac
Enjoy Historic Mackinac Island

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MEMBER SHOPS

The stores and services listed below are MMBA Members as of March 2004. Those listed in bold text give 10% discounts to MMBA members! It wouldn't hurt to thank them all the next time you're in their shop.

Allen Park

Roll Models Cycle & Fitness
(313) 382-1990

Beulah

Bent Crank Cyclery
(231) 882-7793

Birmingham

Bike USA, Inc.
(248) 594-8850

Brighton

K2 Bike
(810) 632-6325
www.k2bike.com

Dexter

Dexter Bike and Sport
(734) 426-5900
www.dexterbikeandsport.com

East Lansing

Denny's Cycle Sports
(517) 351-2000

Flint

Assenmacher's Hill Road Cycling
(810) 232-2994
www.assenmachers.com

Gaylord

Latitude 45 Cycle & Sport
(989) 731-4540
www.lat45sport.com

Grayling

The Bicycle Shop
(989) 348-6868

Holland

Velo City Cycles
616-355-2000

Jackson

On 2 Wheels, Inc.
517-789-6077

Jenison

Village Bike Shop Ltd.
(616) 457-1670

Lake Orion

Paint Creek Bicycles
(248) 693-9620

Lansing

Eric's Cycling & Fitness Center
(517) 882-7003

Muskegon

Breakaway Bicycles
(231) 759-0001

Okemos

Central Park Bicycles
(517) 349-8880

Owosso

House of Wheels, Inc.
(989) 725-8373

Oxford

Main Street Bicycles
(248) 236-9100

Pontiac

Scarlett's Bike & Fitness
(248) 333-7843
www.scarlettsbikeandfitness.com

Port Huron

The Bicycle & Fitness Barn
(810) 987-2523

Portage

Breakaway Bicycles
(616) 324-5555

Rochester

Rochester Bike Shop
(248) 652-6376

Shelby Township

Main Street Bicycles
(586) 677-7755

Southfield

Steve's Specialty Sports
(248) 642-6676

Traverse City

Brick Wheels
(616) 947-4274
www.brickwheels.com

City Bike Shop Inc.
(231) 947-1312

Warren

Macomb Bike & Fitness
(810) 756-5400

Zeeland

Zeeland Schwinn Cycling & Fitness (616) 722-6223

Please send corrections to BRB@MMBA.ORG or call (248) 349-1937

The Rochester Bike Shop (RBS) is pleased to announce that it has become an **official dealer of Yeti bicycles**. RBS is the only Yeti dealer in Michigan.

"Becoming a Yeti dealer is important to us as it furthers our ability to offer the finest bicycles and service to our customers," says RBS co-owner, Joe Pia.

The shop also announces that MMBA members will receive a 10% discount on the purchase of any regularly priced 2004 mountain bike over \$600.00, and on all parts and accessories. Discounts will be honored when you present your MMBA membership card at the time of purchase.

FOR SALE: Hitch mounted four bike rack. Heavy duty custom built with red tail light built in. Bikes hang from top tube. Yakima locks. Can be made to fit any hitch (owner will arrange for modification, if required). Currently designed for small socket hitch. \$50. Lansing. Call 517-349-4683, evenings.

Below are additional MMBA corporate sponsors.

Associations

Ogemaw Hills Pathway Council
West Branch, MI
(989) 345-0034

Thunder Bay Trail Association
Ossineke, MI
(517) 727-3702

Clubs

Hellriders MTBC
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Companies

Keweenaw Adventure Co, LLC
Copper Harbor, MI
(906) 289-4303
www.keweenawadventure.com

Hermann Construction, Inc.
Milford, MI - (248) 685-2137

Slingshot Bicycle Co.
Grand Rapids, MI
(888) 530.5556
www.slingshotbikes.com

Trail Atlas of Michigan
Hansen Publishing Company
Okemos, MI
(517) 349-4683
www.michiweb.com/trailatlas

ZZ Underwater World
Lansing, MI
(517) 485-3894
www.zzunderwaterworld.com

Manufacturers

Armadillo (Printwear) Reflex Sports
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(248) 547-0490
www.goarmadillo.com

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Belmont, MI
616) 784-9327

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Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival
Cable, WI
(715) 798-3594
www.cheqfattire.com

Oakland County Parks & Rec
(248) 858-0916
www.co.oakland.mi.us

Iceman Promotions, Inc.
Traverse City, MI - (231) 922-5926
www.iceman.com

Tailwind Enterprises
Davisburg, MI - (248) 634-6178
www.tailwind.net

Zoo-De-Mackinac "Bike Bash"
Royal Oak, MI
(248) 549-1072
www.zoo-de-mack.com

Visitor Bureaus

Petoskey-Harbor Springs-Boyne
Convention & Visitor's Bureau
(800) 845-2828
www.boynecountry.com

Grayling Area Visitors Bureau
(800) 937-8837
www.grayling-mi.com

F.Y.I

MMBA Trail Handbook Correction: The phone number for Stony Creek is incorrect. The area code should be 586.



Contribute!

Want to get published in the BRB? The BRB welcomes submissions and artwork from MMBA members. This is your newsletters so send stuff! Email your story ideas, stories and photos to brb@mmba.org. If you can't email items or have questions call Bryan Mitchell at 248-349-1937. Keep the stories short and about Michigan or Michigan Riders. Email copy in the body of the email with no formatting or better yet in a Microsoft Word document, again with no formatting.

Photo guidelines: Make sure photos are in focus, the subject is fairly close and they are interesting. Also try to make sure faces are lit well. Email photos to bryan@bryanmitchell.com. Keep the files large. Try to send sizes of at least 5X7 at a resolution of 300ppi. (2000X2000 pixels and a file size of at least 2 mb) Email photos as JPEG attachments and don't imbed them in documents like Microsoft Word. (make sure they have .jpg at the end of the file name).

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Or "Ride Like A Girl" Long Sleeved

T Gray with black sleeves.

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\$21

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Expiration

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Cost

Embroidered Ball Cap

Embroidered Knit Hat

MMBA Java 2 pounds

MMBA Java 5 pounds

Official T-shirt

YOUTH S M L XL XXL

Long Sleeve T S M L XL

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